

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims, specification, and drawings.

Claims

Claims 34-37 and 55-58 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended.

Claims 3 and 45 have been canceled.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-33, 38-44, and 46-54 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that each and every feature recited in the pending claims are fully supported in the specification as filed. No new subject matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Office Action argues that claims 1, 2, 4-21, 26-33, 38, 39, 44, and 46-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shih et al. (U.S. 20030190870), hereinafter “Shih”, in view of Han et al. (U.S. 6,942,929), hereinafter “Han”, and in further view of Collins et al. (U.S. 6,814,814), hereinafter “Collins”.

The Office Action argues that claims 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shih in view of Han, in view of Collins, and in further view of Amai et al. (U.S. 7,063,094), herein after Amai.

The Office Action argues that claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shih in view of Han, in further view of Collins, and in view of Chen et al (U.S. 6,162,738), hereinafter “Chen”, and Yu (U.S. 6,514,875), herein after “Yu”.

Applicants hereby amend independent claim 1, as follows:

1. (Currently amended) In a plasma processing system, a method of removing a set of particles from a set of structures including yttrium oxide, comprising:

exposing said set of structures to a first solution including an oxidizer for a first period, ~~wherein said step of exposing said set of structures to said first solution including an oxidizer for a first period includes mechanically rubbing said set of structures with an abrasive pad;~~
removing said set of structures from said first solution;
exposing said set of structures to a second solution including a ~~ketone~~ ketone reagent for a second period;
removing said set of structures from said second solution; and
mechanically rubbing a surface of said set of structures with a third solution including a first set of acids for a third period, said third period being about 1 minute.

Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Paragraph [0038] in this application. The amended independent claim 1 includes the feature/limitation that the third period for mechanically rubbing a surface of a set of structures with a solution including a set of acids is about 1 minute.

In contrast, Shih teaches dipping in a set of acids for about 1 hour (Paragraph [0016]). Accordingly, Shih specifically teaches away from the invention defined in the amended claim 1. Han, Collins, Amai, Chen, and Yu do not teach a length of time for rubbing a surface of a set of structures with a solution including a set of acids.

For the above reasons and others, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claim 1 is novel, nonobvious, and patentable over the cited art, alone or in combination.

Claim 2 is amended to include the feature that the fourth period is about 10 minutes. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Paragraph [0042] in this application.

In contrast, none of the cited references teaches exposing a set of structures to a solution including a set of acids for about 10 minutes.

Claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 1 and to include the feature that the first set of acids recited in claim 1 includes at least HF, HNO₃, and H₂O. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Paragraph [0038] in this application.

In contrast, Shih teaches dipping in a set of acids including HF, HNO₃, and H₂O for about 1 hour (Paragraph [0016]). Accordingly, Shih specifically teaches away from the invention defined in the amended claim 4.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims 2, 4-33, 38-44, and 46-54 that depend from the amended claims 1 also are novel, nonobvious, and patentable not only due to their recitations of independently patentable features but also due to their dependence from the patentable parent claim 1.

No new subject matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the discussion herein, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

If any petition is required to facilitate the entry of the present amendment, please consider this communication a petition therefore as well. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. LMRX-P023/P1130).

Respectfully submitted,

/Joseph A. Nguyen/Reg No. 37,899

Joseph A. Nguyen
Reg. No. 37,899

408-213-9540